► A number of proposals have been made for implementation during 10 Plan for expending outreach of ISM&H.

(c) No such analysis has been done. However, a number of Chronic and life style related diseases are stated to have no cure.

Prevalence of arsenic contamination of drinking water in Indo-Bangladesh Region

2259. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WHO has warned India of wide prevalence of arsenic contamination of drinking water in Indo-Bangladesh region;

(b) the name of the districts and number of people estimated to be running the risk of arsenic poisoning in West Bengal and the number of cases actually detected; and

(c) the steps taken to fight the menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) In 1997, WHO acknowledged that arsenic in drinking water was a 'major public health issue' and recommended to the government of India and Bangaladesh to develop measures to tackle presence of arsenic in drinking water supplies in India and Bangaladesh.

(b) The problem of arsenic contamination of drinking water is mainly restricted to geographical areas of West Bengal. Eight districts *viz.* 24 Pargans (North & South), Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, Howrah, Hoogly and Burdwan have been affected. As per reports of All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, Kolkata, 5.31 million people have clinical symptoms of arsenic posing including hyper pigmentation, kerotosis & hepatomegaly.

(c) The Government of West Bengal in collaboration with and financial support from Government of India (Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission) has taken steps for supplying safe drinking water from alternate sources in the affected areas. Piped water supply schemes with surface water as source and digging of Deep-tubewells

in Arsenic free aquifers has been started. Simultaneously, a realistic assessment of the magnitude and severity of arsenic problem is being made through extensive water quality monitoring and epidemiological surveys. Steps have been taken by the Government of West Bengal for installation of arsenic detection unit at the School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata.

Kidney trade

2260. SHRI ABANI ROY: will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite ban Kidney trade still flourish in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that large number of Kidneys are being destined for the patients of the Middle East countries;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether a large number of middlemen, medical professionals and private hospitals are involved in the racket; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act is applicable in the whole of the States of Goa, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh and all the Union Territories. It has been adopted/enacted by all the States except Bihar and newly created States, namely, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Under Section 18 to 23 of the said Act, necessary provisions have been made to check such trade of human organs. Government have not received any information relating to large number of kidneys being destined for the patients of Middle East countries.